

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

() Release (X) Excise () Deny

Exemption(s): B6

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

3/31/78

B6

AR024

will be the result of the new law. The new law, which was passed by the Congress of the United States on March 31, 1977, for the situation in Argentina, will prohibit the export of military equipment and training to Argentina after October 1. In addition we are using the law to prevent the export of military equipment and training to Argentina.

Dear Mr. Murtha: Thank you for your inquiry of March 8, on behalf of your constituent, [redacted] and his concern regarding Mr. Adolfo Perez Esquivel, an Argentine citizen.

B6

Adolfo Perez Esquivel was arrested April 4, 1977. No charges have been brought against him formally. He is being held under executive detention rather than being processed through the judicial system. Our reports indicate Mr. Perez Esquivel is being treated correctly as a prisoner and is allowed to receive visits from his family. He also has been able to continue to edit his pacifist magazine Paz y Justicia. A great deal of international interest continues to be shown in his case.

Our Embassy in Buenos Aires has met with members of Mr. Perez Esquivel's family and has presented his case to the Argentine Foreign Ministry's working group on human rights. The Embassy has been informed of your interest in this case, and we have asked them to provide us with the most current word they have. We will forward any additional information we receive to your office.

The efforts on behalf of A. Perez Esquivel represent only one facet of the U.S. efforts to favorably influence the human rights situation in Argentina. As you may know, a number of actions have been taken by the United States to convey to the Argentines our deep commitment to this policy. All arms transfer requests are being reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and we are not approving transfers of articles or services intended for police and civil law enforcement, or which could be described as such. Grant military training for Argentina has been prohibited and there

Drafted by [redacted]

3/23/78

Clearance [redacted]

The Honorable,

John Murtha,

U.S. House of Representatives.

Lot 81D208

Box 4963 (2/12)

will be no military sales credits for FY 1978. The newly enacted Section 620B of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, which conveyed the concern of Congress for the situation in Argentina will bar the sale of military equipment and training to Argentina after October 1. In addition we are using our voice and vote in the international financial institutions in support of our human rights policy. The Argentines are fully aware that substantial improvement in our relations is dependent on their observance of basic human rights.

Respectfully,
Sincerely,
Douglas J. Bennett, Jr.
Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

to be sent to him.

Drafted: ARA/ECA:DVanTreeck:bp
3/28/78:x22179:0038-1295
Clearance: ARA/ECA:RWZ:imernann
ARA/ECA:JNBumpus
ARA:GLister
H:CCutter